

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

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R 241535Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 041279

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,US,SU,ET

SUBJECT: SUDANESE-US COOPERATION

1. IN MEETING FEBRUARY 22 WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY-DESIGNATE CHRISTOPHER, SUDANESE MINSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS DENG DESCRIBED CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS SUDAN HAS HAD IN ENDING CIVIL WAR AND ESTABLISHING STRUCTURE CONDUCIVE TO NATION-BUILDING AND TO MOBILIZATION OF PEOPLE FOR DEVELOPMENT DESIGNED TO PROMOTE SOCIAL JUSTICE AND NARROW INCOME GAPS ESPECIALLY FOR RURAL AND URBAN POOR. DENG FELT SUDAN'S SUCCESS COULD SERVE AS MODEL FOR OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

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2. DENG NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT SOME OF SUDAN'S NEIGHBORS, E.G. LIBYA AND ETHIOPIA, WERE NOT PREPARED FOLLOW NEIGHBORLY POLICIES BUT HAD INSTEAD SOUGHT FOMENT UNREST IN SUDAN. LIBYA SEEMED MOTIVATED BY FEELING THAT SUCCESSFUL FUSION OF SOUTHERN SUDAN WITH NORTH SOMEHOW DILUTED SUDAN'S ARABNESS AND THEY WISH REINSTALL OLD RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP.

FORTUNATELY, THE NEW SUDANESE STRUCTURE IS SUFFICIENTLY SOUND TO WITHSTAND SUCH COMMOTIONS. HOWEVER, SUCH ACTIVITIES BY SUDAN'S NEIGHBORS MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR DEVELOPMENT EFFORT IN THE SUDAN, COMBINING ARAB FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND US KNOW-HOW, TO HAVE THE DESIRED CONSTRUCTIVE DEMONSTRATION EFFECT IN AFRICA.

3. AS TO SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA, DENG WONDERED IF NON-INTERFERENCE BY COUNTRIES THAT HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IS NOT DUE FOR RECONSIDERATION. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE US AND SUDAN SHOULD CONSULT TOGETHER TO SEE HOW SUFFERING IN THE AREA CAN BE ALLEVIATED BY JOINT ACTION, WHICH WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE MORAL CONCERNS NOW EVIDENT IN US FOREIGN POLICY.

4. ASKED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR LESSENING TENSION BETWEEN SUDAN AND ETHIOPIA, DENG SAID THAT ETHIOPIA'S ROLE IN ACHIEVING THE SOLUTION FOR SUDAN'S SOUTHERN PROBLEM AS WELL AS SUDAN'S DEDICATION TO AFRICAN UNITY HAD INSPIRED SUDAN TO TRY TO BE HELPFUL IN RESOLVING ETHIOPIA'S ERITREAN PROBLEM. THIS SUDANESE ATTITUDE WAS ESPECIALLY NOT WORTHY IN VIEW OF INTENSE PRESSURES ON SUDAN TO ASSIST ERITREA. DENG OBSERVED THAT UNITY OF A COUNTRY CANNOT BE ACHIEVED IF PEOPLE DO NOT SEE UNITY AS BEING IN THEIR INTEREST. INSTEAD OF WORKING TO THAT END, AS SUDAN HAD WITH RESPECT TO ITS SOUTHERN PROBLEM, ETHIOPIA DESPITE ITS PROTESTATIONS TO THE CONTRARY NEVER TRUSTED THE SUDAN'S EFFORTS TO HELP IT, SO MUCH SO THAT ETHIOPIA COOPERATED WITH DEFUNCT SUDANESE POLITICIANS' ATTEMPTS

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TO OVERTHROW THE SUDANESE GOVERNMENT. AS A RESULT OF PERMITTING ETHIOPIA TO BE USED FOR ATTACKS AGAINST SUDAN, BILATERAL RELATIONS HAVE SUFFERED AS HAS SUDAN'S MEDIATION ROLE WITH RESPECT TO THE ERITREAN PROBLEM, WHICH, INDEED, ETHIOPIA SHOWS NO INTENTION OF RESOLVING. IF ONE APPLIES MORAL PRINCIPLES, ONE MUST BE CONCERNED OVER THE PLIGHT OF THE PEOPLE AFFECTED. WHAT HAPPENS IN ETHIOPIA AFFECTS THE SUDAN. DENG ASKED RHETORICALLY IF THERE DOES NOT COME A TIME WHEN ONE'S INVOLVEMENT IS BEING USED CONTRARY TO WHAT ONE INTENDS? HE SUGGESTED THERE WAS A NEED FOR REAPPRAISAL.

5. ASKED IF SAUDI AND OTHER ARAB ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WAS BRINGING CLOSER POLITICAL TIES, DENG SAID THAT ON BASIS OF PHILOSOPHY THAT UNITY COMES AFTER ESTABLISHMENT OF MUTUAL INTERESTS, UNITY BETWEEN SUDAN AND EGYPT WAS MAKING SOME PROGRESS. SAME WAS TRUE WITH RESPECT SAUDI ARABIA THOUGH NOT ON AS INTIMATE A BASIS. DENG SAID THAT SUDAN IS WORKING FOR STABILITY WITH ITS FRIENDS IN THE AREA AND

LOOKS TO FRIENDS OUTSIDE THE AREA TO ASSIST.

6. REFERRING TO THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S STUDY OF ARMS TRANSFER POLICY, MR. CHRISTOPHER OBSERVED THAT THIS STUDY MIGHT OCCASION DELAY IN REGARD TO PROCESSING ALL OUTSTANDING CASES, INCLUDING ON AN ENTIRELY NON-DISCRIMINATORY BASIS SUDAN'S C-130 PURCHASE. STATING US IMPRESSION THAT

BILATERAL RELATIONS HAVE IMPROVED AND ARE IMPROVING, HE ASKED IF DENG HAD ANY SPECIFIC BILATERAL QUESTIONS TO RAISE. DENG HAD NO SPECIFIC MATTERS TO RAISE, AGREED THAT THINGS MOVING IN RIGHT DIRECTION THOUGH OF COURSE NEVER MOVE FAST ENOUGH FOR EVERYBODY. HE FELT THAT TIME HAS BEEN LOST DUE TO UNFORTUNATE EVENTS BUT ALSO TO LACK OF BETTER WAYS OF CONSULTING AND SHARING PERSPECTIVES. PRESIDENT NIMEIRI'S VISIT HAD PROVIDED BASIS FOR PROCEEDING AND SINCE THEN SUDANESE GOVERNMENT HAS ESTABLISHED CONFIDENTIAL

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AN INTERMINISTERIAL COMMISSION TO FOLLOW RELATIONS WITH THE US. ALTHOUGH QUESTIONS RAISED AS TO WHETHER THIS COMMISSION JUSTIFIED BY PACE OF DEVELOPMENTS, IT IS FELT BEST TO HAVE AVAILABLE STRUCTURE WHICH WILL BE ABLE CUT THROUGH BUREAUCRATIC DELAYS. THERE IS URGENCY FELT IN SUDAN AND FRIENDS OF US OFTEN QUESTION ABOUT THE PRIORITY GIVEN TO US RELATIONS GIVEN THE ABSENCE OF DEVELOPMENTS.

7. MR. CHRISTOPHER ASSURED DENG THAT US ANXIOUS MOVE AHEAD AND TO ENCOURAGE THOSE THINGS THAT ARE WORKING WELL. HE SAID US WILL BE WORKING IN WAYS WHICH HE FELT SUDAN WOULD FIND HELPFUL.

8. COMMENT: WHILE HIS PHRASING WAS ELLIPTICAL AND HIS POINTS KEPT DELIBERATELY NON-SPECIFIC, DENG SEEMED TO BE REITERATING POINTS AMBASSADOR BREWER HAS BEEN HEARING IN RECENT MONTHS: THAT US SHOULD REAPPRAISE ITS SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIA, TAKE A MORE SYMPATHETIC VIEW OF ERITREAN CAUSE, WORK FOR STABILITY IN RED SEA AREA WITH SUDAN AND ITS AREA FRIENDS, AND MOVE MORE EXPEDITIOUSLY ON AID TO SUDAN.
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